FEB 2 1 2006 UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INSU)

Appl. No. : 10/649,337

Applicant : Thomas A. HILLERICH, Jr. et al.

Filed : August 27, 2003

TC/A.U. : 3653

Examiner : Matthew J. Kohner

Docket No. : 2662-155 Customer No. : 06449 Confirmation No. : 4608

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 26, 2006 in connection with the subject application, the applicants hereby elect Group I, namely claims 1-19 and 30-33, drawn to a system and methods for automated loading of side-by-side stacks of thin objects to a thin-object feeder.

The applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application at a later date for the non-elected subject matter.

Early and favorable action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Ву

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